



**Commonwealth of Kentucky
Personnel Cabinet's Communications Office**

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Employee Suggestion System Awards: 43 State Employees Recognized

FRANKFORT, Ky. – Forty-three state employees were recognized today for finding innovative ways to improve state government operations at the Twenty-Seventh Annual Employee Suggestion System Awards, held this afternoon at the Governor's Mansion.

"Thanks to the innovation and creativity of these state employees, the Commonwealth saved nearly \$400,000 in the first year their ideas were implemented," said Personnel Cabinet Secretary Brian Crall. "The Employee Suggestion System is an incentive program that works – recognizing employees for their achievements while also increasing efficiency in state government."

Employees' suggestions represent an exact first-year savings of \$384,806 since the date of implementation. The cash awards received by Employee Suggestion System winners this calendar year amounted to \$31,089.

Cabinet secretaries presented the awards to the winning recipients within their respective offices. The top three suggestions with the highest first-year savings recognized at the 2006 awards ceremony include:

- Linda Clements, Cabinet for Health & Family Services: suggested automating the mail-in recertification procedure. The first-year savings realized from this suggestion amounted to \$70,783.
- Stacey Ewalt, Finance & Administration Cabinet: suggested purchasing state owned vehicles for field representatives to travel to their assigned counties instead of using their personal vehicles and being reimbursed for mileage. This suggestion's first-year savings amounted to \$46,900.
- Donald Redmon, Justice & Public Safety Cabinet: suggested that the Department of Corrections use inmate labor to refurbish computers. This suggestion resulted in a first-year savings of \$44,584.

These three employees each received an award in the amount of \$2,500.

The cabinet with the largest first-year savings as a result of their employees' suggestions is the Cabinet for Health & Family Services, with savings of \$74,963. Six employees in this cabinet received awards amounting to \$3,418.

The Kentucky Employee Suggestion System has been reaping substantial savings for both employees and Commonwealth citizens since its inception. Cash awards and certificates are awarded to employees for implementation of ideas resulting in improved safety and efficiency in operations, cost reduction and cost avoidance, improved public relations and increased state revenues. Taxpayers benefit as government operations are streamlined, making more money potentially available for other needs.

Cash awards are paid by the Cabinet(s) realizing the savings from the suggestion(s) and may range from a minimum of \$100 to ten percent of the first-year savings, up to a maximum of \$2,500. Awards of \$100 may be given for ideas that are adopted but have intangible savings.

During Governor Fletcher's administration, employees' suggestions have resulted in a total first-year savings of \$1,593,192. The first-year savings for this program, since its establishment in 1981, is more than \$27 million.

A complete listing of employee suggestion winners will be available in the coming days at the following website:

www.personnel.ky.gov

Scroll down and click on the Kentucky Employee Suggestion System – the light bulb icon -- on the left side of the screen.